

Initial Prompt: A lake in the woods.

Light

A soft breeze whistled through the trees as I took in my surroundings. The forest was shining, sunlight bouncing off the bright greens of summer. The lake shimmered, small waves lapping at the sandy shoreline. I moved out of the dappled shadow of the tall maple I had been resting under, readying my fishing equipment and sighing contentedly as the warmth of the sun hit my skin. I let the hook fly, watching as it hit the water with a small “splash!” I barely had time to settle in to wait, before I felt a light tug. Quickly reeling in, I managed to pull up a small yellow perch, its scales gleaming. The hook came out easily, and I tossed the fish back into the lake. Today would be a good day.

(5 minutes 30 seconds)

Dark

The wind howled through the trees as I took in my surroundings. The overcast skies and distant thunder were only fitting. The lake was growing angry, waves crashing against the rocky shoreline. I dragged my rowboat out from under the looming evergreen. Its cargo made the job harder, but it was no match for the crushing weight of what I had done. I waded into the murky waters, the growth in the lake squishing against my bare feet. Pulling the boat out with me, I climbed inside, careful not to let the contents spill prematurely. I rowed out to the middle of the choppy waters, rain beginning to fall from the sky, and the storm fast approaching. Quickly, I tied the rocks I had gathered to the bag, ensuring it would never rise to the surface. I heaved the bag over the side of the boat, watching as it sank into the depths. No one would ever know what I had done.

(6 minutes)